

Good evening,

This comment is in response to the FCC's plan to impose copy-protection technology in digital television receivers. As a citizen of these United States who has not only an interest in how our system of government works, but also in the emergence of modern technology and how it can benefit mankind, I am extremely dismayed at the idea of large media corporations treading over my rights as a citizen and consumer. Having worked in the information technology field for my entire adult life, I realize the threat that digital technology poses to those who have commercial interests in content creation. However, I also know that from a technical stand point, all it takes is one person to crack the watermarking flag for files to pop up over the peer-to-peer networks.

As I understand it, one of the arguments for this copyright protection is that "near-perfect copies of digital content can be distributed in violation of copyright laws." First off, perfect copies of digital content is already available through DVD's and CD's. Additionally, the law in the latter half of the 20th century as well as in the 21st has tended to favor corporate rights over personal freedoms. By allowing corporate media entities to essentially dictate how the law is written, the FCC may ultimately set a new precedent for the destruction of fair-use. US consumers already on average pay more for cable broadcast than their Canadian neighbors. In paying for cable television, they are also essentially paying for broadcast television. To legislatively dictate that the market accept and only sell digital television equipment will make criminals out of the mom and pop folk who will continue to use their analog based equipment. The government actively taking a role in what products will be allowed in the marketplace in the end reduces innovation rather than spurs it. I truly hope that the FCC can recognize what this legislation will mean to the average individual and choose to use its power of regulation more responsibly.

Sincerely,  
Richard Zawadzki